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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/505,408	10/16/2006	Norikazu Sato		8799
Norikazu Sato 2-46-8, Unoki, Ootaku Tokyo, 146-0091 JAPAN				
7550 04/10/2008			EXAMINER CHAN, KO HUNG	
			ART UNIT 3632	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 04/10/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/505,408

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

Korie H. Chan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim 4 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim (e.g. claim 3). See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claim 4 has not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-4 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 is vague and indefinite for the reasons that applicant inferentially claims that there is a central display or unit; furthermore, the use of displays or units to describe the same element is confusing. Regarding claim 2, line 3, "a connection half positions" is vague and indefinite as such element is not defined. Further, applicant inferentially claims there is a "support shaft" on line 4 of claim 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

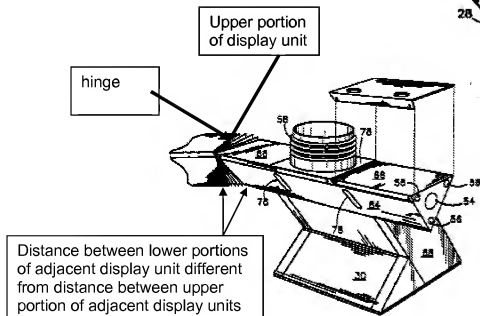
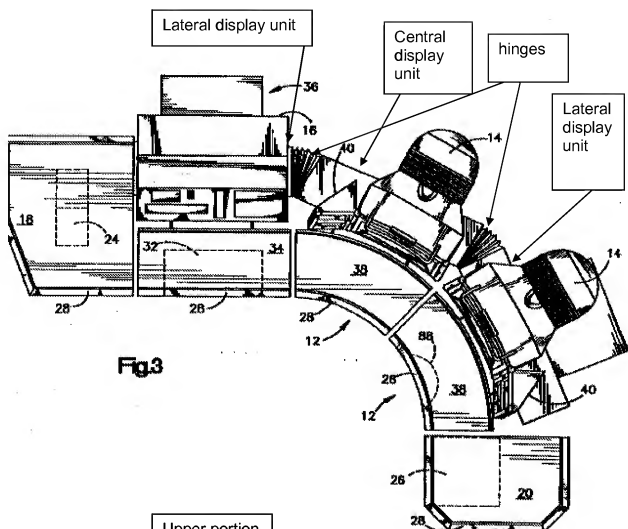
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section

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351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fowler et al (US patent no. 6,302,612). Fowler discloses a multi-display device, wherein a plurality of basic displays or basic units are horizontally arranged, lateral basic displays or lateral basic units (148) are connected to the central basic display or central basic unit (131) respectively by hinge members (ball and socket joint 147) so that a distance between the adjacent basic displays or basic units at an upper side portion of the basic display or basic unit is different from one at a lower side portion (the universal joint 147 of Fowler permits such distance to be different).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maguire, Jr. (US patent no. 5,416,666). Maguire discloses a multi-display device having all the claimed features of applicant's invention as illustrated below.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fowler et al (US patent no. 6,302,612) in view of Bonar (US patent no. 4,233,708). Fowler discloses all the claimed features of applicant's invention as illustrated above except for in the connection using the hinge member having a shaft and an upper side connection portion and a lower side connection portion are different from each other and are integrated in one hinge. Such hinge connection is old and well-known. Bonar teaches such connection using the hinge member having a shaft (3', figure 5) and an upper side connection portion (11) and a lower side connection portion (9) are different from each other and are integrated in one hinge. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modify the hinge of Fowler with the hinge of the type shown by Bonar. Such modification would have involved a mere substitution of one well-known type of hinge for another which is well within the ambit of one or ordinary skilled in the art.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maguire, Jr. (US patent no. 5,416,666) in view of Bonar (US patent no. 4,233,708). Maguire discloses all the claimed features of applicant's invention as illustrated above except for in the connection using the hinge member having a shaft and an upper side

connection portion and a lower side connection portion are different from each other and are integrated in one hinge. Such hinge connection is old and well-known. Bonar teaches such connection using the hinge member having a shaft (3', figure 5) and an upper side connection portion (11) and a lower side connection portion (9) are different from each other and are integrated in one hinge. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modify the hinge of Maguire with the hinge of the type shown by Bonar. Such modification would have involved a mere substitution of one well-known type of hinge for another which is well within the ambit of one or ordinary skilled in the art.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited art of record demonstrate various multi-display devices of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Korie H. Chan whose telephone number is 571-272-6816. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on (571)272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Korie H. Chan/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3632

khc
April 8, 2008